

ISST Forum Summary – 14 October 2004

Please see ISST Forum slides

(http://www.nws.noaa.gov/ost/ifps_sst/isst_forum.html) for more information on what was presented. These notes are intended to give a general flavor for the discussion that took place during the forum.

Introduction –

- Jack Hayes indicated his support for the ISST and the feedback process that has been put in place. His vision is that the ISST will bring ideas to the S&T Committee; he will vet them through the Regions, and then push to implement solutions that make sense.
- Brad Colman welcomed everyone and thanked them for participating. The ISST realizes it needs the feedback of everyone involved in the Digital Services process to help move the program forward.

10-506 –

- Brad Colman gave a brief review of the process that the ISST went through in its review of 10-506. He also highlighted the significant changes that are being recommended. An important point was made that this is the beginning point of the 10-506 review process. OCWWS will now take the lead and proceed with the normal review process for a directive.
- There was much discussion about QPF issues. This included discussion about PoP as well; and whether QPF should be included when $\text{PoP} < 50\%$. It was apparent that much additional discussion will be required to come to consensus in this area.
- A question was raised as to how the collaboration thresholds were established. Carl Gorski (an original NDFD IWT member) indicated that it was rather arbitrary. The ISST had not looked at this particular issue. Most agreed that this issue should be more thoroughly investigated. This would include working with customers and partners to help determine what thresholds would be the most useful.
- A general point was raised that, as a whole, we probably need to work more with our customers and partners to better define element definitions, thresholds, etc., to make sure they understand what they mean and so we understand how they use the information.

DGEX –

- Steve Keighton introduced this section and indicated that the ISST was mainly interested in feedback on how the DGEX was being used and if it was proving useful in the forecast process.
- Feedback was varied. Some use it quite extensively; others tried it and did not really like it.
- One concern was collaboration. If one office decides to use DGEX and a neighbor does not, it can cause collaboration problems. But there was general agreement that if offices agree on using DGEX, it does improve the collaboration process.
- A suggestion was also made that all guidance should be looked at to determine which provides the best starting point for each element.
- Use of DGEX grids in the medium range has been a significant time saver for at least some offices.
- Several commented that it handles gradients associated with lake/land differences much better than GFS grids, as well as stability over water.
- Another commented that it depicts decoupling of the winds overnight, while the GFS does not. Wind has been shown to be one of the most useful elements from DGEX overall.
- Several talked about how they like to use DGEX for the background field, and then use Match Guidance to adjust toward MOS.
- A concern was expressed (presumably for offices or clusters of offices that prefer to work on the medium range grids late on the midnight shift) that DGEX is not timely enough.
- The ISST took an action to survey WFOs to determine how many offices are using DGEX and get an estimate of its benefits.

HPC 4-7 Day Grids Proposal and ISST Position Paper –

- Peter Manousos gave a brief background of how HPC produces the grids and some of the near term plans for improving the grids. He indicated that HPC views these grids as an additional piece of guidance that the WFOs can use in the forecast process.
- Mark Jackson briefly summarized the ISST position paper.
- A question was raised as to why grids didn't include all elements over coastal waters. Ed Danaher (HPC) indicated that all elements are not being made available, except weather; he also indicated that OPC would get involved in producing the grids over the ocean.

- There was general agreement that an evaluation period would be needed to determine the best method(s) to incorporate the HPC grids into the digital forecast process.

ISST Future Areas of Interest –

- David Sharp introduced this section, which was intended to give all a brief look at what the ISST may be looking at in the near future. The ISST is looking for feedback on these topics and suggestions for other topics that could/should be added to the list.
- The Analysis of Record was discussed. The following summary was provided by Brad Colman regarding the Mesoscale Analysis Committee meeting this week:
 - A new and very exciting effort that formally started with an Analysis of Record summit in Boulder in June, made more progress this week in D.C. with the first gathering of the Mesoscale Analysis Committee (MAC). The MAC was formed by OS&T, with membership from across NOAA and the academic community, and is chartered to define a development path to generate a NDFD matching gridded real-time analysis. At this week's meeting early agreements were made to have EMC and FSL work together, along with NESDIS, to generate the first version of the Real-Time Mesoscale Analysis (RTMA). First delivery of products is targeted for mid-2005 and will likely include: temperature, max/min temperature, dew-point temperature, wind, precip, and sky.
- There was general agreement that the list included items that are indeed important to be investigated.
- It was indicated that all are encouraged to contact their ISST representative with any and all feedback on this section.

As a wrap up, the ISST indicated that it always welcomes input and feedback and looks forward to the next ISST Forum.